

sonal contributions. They gave concerts and entertainments to raise funds. The location committee found its task a difficult one. Various sites were considered, but after taking all factors under consideration it was decided that a central, accessible location on the main Negro thoroughfare of the city was best .

The city appropriated \$2,500 and the county \$750 for a Negro public library without debate. This was a small sum in the city and county budgets, yet it was large enough to start a library in a rented store room and to pay a trained librarian. The money raised by the citizens was used to purchase needed equipment.

November 12, 1935, the Richard B. Harrison Public Library opened its doors to the book-starved Negroes in Raleigh and Wake County with 890 volumes.

In 1941, this library was one of the initial libraries to receive an appropriation from the State Aid to Public Libraries Fund. This \$300 was used to purchase books for rural readers. Since that time there has been a consistent increase in appropriation which has enabled the library to purchase more books, establish an interlibrary loan collection of books by and about the Negro and receive Adult films for circulation.

After ten years, the library felt the need of moving into larger quarters and extending the services of the library. In November of 1945, a campaign was launched to purchase a building. As the results of an intensive effort, \$12,000 was raised toward the purchase of a building. Considerable renovation was necessary to put it in condition for use. In July, 1948 the library had its formal opening and was ready to serve its patrons with improved service. Evidence of growth and fulfillment of our readers' needs are shown in the following pages.